

U.S. Appl. Ser. No.: 10/054,638
Response dated 7 June 2005
Reply to Office Action of 7 December 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

Claims 1-17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (currently amended): An immunological composition comprising a combination of two, three, or four distinct and separately made protein-polysaccharide protein-capsular polysaccharide conjugates, wherein each of the conjugates comprises a purified capsular polysaccharide ~~derived from a serogroup of *N. meningitidis*~~ serogroup of A, C, W-135 or Y conjugated to a carrier protein, wherein at least one serogroup is W-135 or Y.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 18, wherein at least one of the capsular polysaccharides is from *N. meningitidis* of serogroup A or C.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 19, wherein said at least one of the capsular polysaccharides is from *N. meningitidis* of serogroup A.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 19, wherein said at least one of the capsular polysaccharides is from *N. meningitidis* of serogroup C.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 18, comprising a combination of two distinct and separately made protein-polysaccharide conjugates, wherein a first conjugate comprises a purified capsular polysaccharide of *N. meningitidis* serogroup W-135 and a second conjugate comprises a purified capsular polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of *N. meningitidis* serogroups Y, A ~~or~~ and C.

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Claim 23 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 22, wherein the second conjugate comprises a purified capsular polysaccharide of *N. meningitidis* of serogroup Y.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 22, wherein the second conjugate comprises a purified capsular polysaccharide of *N. meningitidis* of serogroup A.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 22, wherein the second conjugate comprises a purified capsular polysaccharide of *N. meningitidis* of serogroup C.

Claim 26 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 18, comprising a combination of said two distinct and separately made purified protein-polysaccharide protein-capsular polysaccharide conjugates, wherein a the first conjugate comprises a purified capsular polysaccharide of from *N. meningitidis* of serogroup Y and a the second conjugate comprises a purified capsular polysaccharide of from *N. meningitidis* of serogroups A or C.

Claim 27 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 26, wherein the second conjugate comprises a purified capsular polysaccharide of from *N. meningitidis* of serogroup A .

Claim 28 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 26, wherein the second conjugate comprises a purified capsular polysaccharide of from *N. meningitidis* of serogroup C.

Claim 29 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 18, comprising a combination of said three distinct and separately made protein-polysaccharide protein-capsular polysaccharide conjugates, wherein a the first conjugate comprises a purified capsular polysaccharide of from *N. meningitidis* of serogroup W-135 and a the second conjugate

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comprises a purified *N. meningitidis* capsular polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of Y, A and C and a the third conjugate comprises a purified *N. meningitidis* capsular polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of serogroup Y, A and C, wherein the second conjugate is different from the third conjugate.

Claim 30 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 29, wherein at least one of the second conjugate and the third conjugate comprises a purified capsular polysaccharide ~~of~~ from *N. meningitidis* of serogroup Y.

Claim 31 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 29, wherein at least one of the second conjugate and the third conjugate comprises a purified capsular polysaccharide ~~of~~ from *N. meningitidis* of serogroup A.

Claim 32 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 29, wherein at least one of the second conjugate and the third conjugate comprises a purified capsular polysaccharide ~~of~~ from *N. meningitidis* of serogroup C.

Claim 33 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 18, comprising a combination of said four distinct and separately made protein-polysaccharide protein-capsular polysaccharide conjugates, wherein ~~a~~ the first conjugate comprises a purified *N. meningitidis* capsular polysaccharide of serogroup W-135, ~~a~~ the second conjugate comprises a purified *N. meningitidis* capsular polysaccharide of serogroup Y, ~~a~~ the third conjugate comprises a purified *N. meningitidis* capsular polysaccharide of serogroup A, and ~~a~~ the fourth conjugate comprises a purified *N. meningitidis* capsular polysaccharide of serogroup C.

Claim 34. (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 18 further comprising an adjuvant.

Claim 35 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 34, wherein said adjuvant is selected from the group consisting of aluminum ~~adjuvants~~ adjuvant, Freund's

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adjuvant, (N-(2-Deoxy-2-L-leucylamino- β -D-glucopyranosyl)-N-octadecyldodecanoylamide hydroacetate) BAY, (3- β -[N-(N',N'-dimethylaminoethane)-carbamoyl]cholesterol) "DC-cho1" DC-cho1, Poly[bis(carboxylatophoxy)phosphazene] and/or Poly[di(carboxylatophoxy)phosphazene] "pcpp" pepp, monophosphoryl lipid A, oligodeoxynucleotide motifs "CpG" CpG, saponin adjuvants "QG-21" QS-21, cholera toxin, and formyl methionyl peptide.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 35, wherein said aluminum adjuvant is aluminum hydroxide.

Claims 37-45 (canceled)

Claim 46 (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 34, wherein said carrier protein is a single protein species.

Claim 47 (canceled)

Claim 48 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 47 46, wherein said single protein species comprises an inactivated bacterial toxin is derived from a ~~an organism~~ bacterium selected from the group consisting of *Corynebacteria diphtheriae*, *Clostridium tetani*, *Bordetella pertussis*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and *Escherichia coli*.

Claim 49 (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 48, wherein said inactivated bacterial toxin is derived from *Corynebacteria diphtheriae*.

Claim 50 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 49 48, wherein said inactivated bacterial toxin derived from *Corynebacteria diphtheriae* is CRM197.

Claim 51 (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 33 formulated as a sterile liquid.

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Claim 52 (currently amended): The immunological composition of claim 51, wherein said sterile liquid is contained within in a single use syringe.

Claim 53 (canceled)

Claim 54 (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 51, wherein said sterile liquid is contained within a vial.

Claim 55 (canceled)

Claim 56 (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 33, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable preservative.

Claim 57 (previously presented): The immunological composition of claim 56, wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable preservative is selected from the list consisting of benzyl alcohol, parabens, thimerosal, chlorobutanol, and benzalkonium chloride.